

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

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Report Number 18

Date November 6 2015

Report Period July 1 2015 – September 30 2015

Site San Jacinto River Waste Pits (SJRWP) Harris County Texas

Grant Recipient Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF)

Recipient Group Representative Scott Jones Director of Advocacy

Technical Advisor Jennifer Ronk Houston Advanced Research Center The Woodlands Texas

Progress Achieved

Continued to corresponded in person via phone and via email with members of the local community San Jacinto River Coalition about their SJRWP related concerns (a) past river sand mining operation effects on the pits and cap integrity (b) past river sand mining operation effects on soil dioxin concentrations (c) soil dioxin concentrations as a result of river flooding (d) barge tow prop washing effects on cap integrity (e) potential for barge direct impacts to the cap and (f) findings of the U S Army Corps of Engineers draft third party review of the draft Feasibility Study and draft cleanup alternatives GBF referred them to the Galveston Bay Foundation SJRWP website (http://galvbay.org/how_we_protect_the_bay/taking_action/sjrwpl/) where information on these topics can be found in the technical summaries and Superfund documents created by the responsible parties and the USEPA GBF provided these community members the contact information for USEPA community involvement coordinator and project manager as well as government entities on the Community Awareness Committee (e g Harris County Pollution Control TCEQ etc) as appropriate

GBF and HARC participated in the July 16 EPA facilitated Community Awareness Committee meeting where we provided information on the status of seafood consumption safety signs and the Technical Assistance program as well as clarifying EPA information and providing feedback on the cleanup alternatives

GBF participated in the August 20 Texas Association of Environmental Professionals luncheon in Houston that featured a presentation by Dr Kathleen Garland of the University of Houston – Clear Lake on SJRWP cleanup alternatives GBF provided insight and answered questions from the audience on the status of the clean up and the potentially responsible parties draft feasibility study and their proposed cleanup alternatives

GBF participated in the September 1 San Jacinto River Coalition meeting and shared information on the cleanup process information to the attendees

On September 10 GBF and HARC submitted a joint comment letter on the Corps of Engineers draft third party review of the responsible parties draft interim Feasibility Study for submission to the EPA project manager

In September GBF began gathering information/documentation on subsistence fishing and crabbing in the waste pits area of concern for the EPA project manager this information may be useful in making sure that the risks from consumption of contaminated fish and crab in addressed in the EPA cleanup assessment Scott submitted documentation in the form of photos maps that GBF produced for a seafood consumption advisory education grant and a prior fishing survey that the potentially responsible parties had produced as a part of the cleanup process to the EPA project manager on September 29 GBF will submit any other subsistence fishing documentation we can obtain to the EPA project manager in October

Materials Produced this Quarter

None

